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Colby, Sam

CIA 8 Senate Select Ctte

# Probers Had No Time To Get Testimony

By JOSEPH VOLZ

Washington, June 20 (News Bureau)—Senate Intelligence Committee Investigators located Mafia boss Sam Giancana hours before he was shot to death last night, but did not have time to question him for possible testimony about the alleged CIA-Mafia plot to assassinate Cuban Premier Fidel Castro.

Sen. John Tower (R-Tex.), the committee's vice chairman, told reporters.

"We have noted with interest that he was done away with. He had been contacted by some of our staff."

Investigators apparently had lost contact with Giancana previously when he underwent gall-bladder surgery in Houston. He returned home only yesterday.

Tower could not shed any light on speculation that Giancana was gunned down because of the possibility that he might be called to testify before the Senate committee.

## Saved by the C.I.A.?

Giancana, who kept a stiff lip and spent a year in jail in 1965 for refusing to testify under a grant of immunity before a federal grand jury, was also a target of the House Intelligence Committee.

House staffers had been investigating whether the CIA intervened with the Justice Department



John Tower

ment to keep Giancana from serving more time in jail.

The House panel has not met for several weeks because of an internal feud over who is in charge of the committee.

We were more interested in any arrangement between the CIA and the Justice Department to show favoritism to Giancana than asking him about murder plots," one House committee staffer said. Most of the straightforward CIA involvement," he said, was available in CIA records.

The Justice Department lost interest in Giancana after his one-year term ended. It could have requested that another grand jury be empaneled and forced Giancana to testify or stay in jail.

## Pressure Was Letoff

But Justice officials said today that it was deemed not appropriate to offer Giancana immunity from prosecution. The decision, which freed him, had

absolutely no connection with the CIA," Justice sources said.

Tower said that CIA Director William E. Colby assured the panel today the agency was not currently doing any business with the Mafia. Tower would not say when the spies and mobsters ended their alliance.

## Spoke to Hit Man

Senate investigators said that they would be able to carry out their investigation of mob attempts to assassinate Castro despite Giancana's murder because We have talked to someone directly involved."

That apparently meant a Giancana lieutenant, John Roselli, who purportedly led six CIA-Mafia attempts to shoot or poi-

son Castro. Roselli has been subpoenaed to testify next Tuesday.

The panel also quizzed Colby on any CIA involvement in the murder of South Vietnamese President Ngo Dinh Diem in 1963. Tower said that there was no indication of any direct agency involvement" but was vague on whether the CIA aided the South Vietnamese officers who overthrew Diem.

Obviously there was some American interest in the plot... Tower said.

The Pentagon Papers, a secret study of U.S. operations in Vietnam which was leaked to the press, contended that the President Kennedy knew of the officers' coup plans and approved of them.

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